recommendations of the Commission. Accordingly an action plan for Chilka Lake for 1996-2000, prepared by the Government of Orissa, has been approved by the Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Finance.

Role of ICAR

793. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR produces only prototypes and undertakes manufacturing promotion activities through interaction with the agriculture machinery manufacturers and supplies drawings to them;

(b) whether the ICAR does not involve itself in the manufacturing, supply, cost evaluation, control with the result that the farmers do not genuine certified products/machinery at reasonable cost and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The workshop facilities available with the research centres and institutes of ICAR are basically research and development oriented. The institute/projects engaged in prototype development, do interact with manufacturing industries as a promotional avenue for the developed equipment.

(b) Large scale commercial manufacturing comparable to a well established manufacturing industries is neither feasible nor contemplated. The ICAR only make prototype at the research centres taking care of quality control and safety aspects. Relevant BIS standards are followed whenever available for the manufacturing and testing of prototypes.

(c) The ICAR has started a Revolving fund scheme. Under this scheme the institutions are given an interest free loan. Using this loan, the institute/project produces equipment for sale and pays back to the ICAR to the extent of the initial loans amount from the profit generated. Proper quality standards are maintained .in the fabrication of the equipment.

कमला-बलान रेल-पुल की मरम्मत

794. श्री रामदेव भंडारी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत वर्ष के दौरान उत्तर-पूर्व रेलवे के झांझारपुर-लौहना स्टेशन के बीच कमला-बलान नदी पर स्थित रेल-पुल की मरम्मत का कार्य पूरा कर लिया गया था,

(ख) उस पर कुल कितनी राशि खर्च की गई और यह कार्य कब पूरा किया गया;

(ग) क्या पुल की हालत फिर से खराब हो गई है;

(घ) क्या पुल की मरम्मत के कार्य हेतु धनराशि में कोई घोटाला किया गया था; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार इस मामले में कोई जांच कराएगी?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) कार्य 93-94 में पूरा किया गया।

(ख) रु॰ 29,94,360/-रु. 31.3.1994

(ग) जी नहीं,

(घ) जी नहीं,

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता.

Endangered Rhino of Kaziranga

795. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to protect and preserve Kaziranga as the natural habitat of the Rhino in the context of the report in the "Pioneer" dated the 19th June, 1996; and

(b) the estimated population of Rhino at present and how it compares with that in 1991 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The State Government of Assam have reported that they are facing a serious financial problem in maintaining the Kaziranga National Park, after the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Conservation of rhinos in Assam" was transferred to the state alongwith its resources in 1992-93. They have, therefore.